



State Emergency Management Agency

Newsletter

Spring 2006

Department of Public Safety

Vol. 52, No. 1



Christian County



Henry County



Caruthersville, Pemiscot County

MO Receives 2 Disaster Declarations for March, April Tornadoes

Missouri received two Presidential Disaster Declarations for Tornadoes – March 11-13, 2006 and March 30-April 3, 2006. Between the two storms, 44 tornadoes touched down in Missouri. Fourteen people died, 147 were injured, 646 homes were destroyed, 3678 homes were damaged, 1134 homes were affected. As of April 12, the Missouri Department of Insurance reported insured losses totaled \$350 Million with claim information still being processed. Eleven Disaster Recovery Centers assisted 1300 people. SEMA established the Missouri Tornado Disaster Assistance Hotline. AmeriCorps processed 300 calls to the Missouri Tornado Donations line for 181 requests for help, 77 donations offers and 44 volunteer calls.

3 Counties Declared for March 30-April 3 Storms

On March 30, a series of storms caused damage in Andrew, Atchison, Cooper County, Holt, Marion, Monroe, and Shelby Counties. An April 3 tornado swept through Pemiscot County. There were damage reports in St. Charles, St. Louis, Ralls and Dunklin counties.

On Thursday, April 6 President Bush approved Governor Matt Blunt's request for expedited disaster assistance for the recent tornadoes. He approved Individual Assistance for Pemiscot County and Public Assistance (Debris Removal and Emergency Protective Measures only) for Andrew, Pettis and Pemiscot Counties. The storm system was responsible for three deaths and over 60 injuries. Over 60% of the Caruthersville, 100% of Braggadocia and 80% of Deering all in Pemiscot County was destroyed. Major problems Pemiscot County and Caruthersville faced included restoring utilities, clearing streets, shelter and housing problems.

The Governor signed executive orders for state agency assistance, activation of the Mo National Guard, Department of Natural Resources

Continued on page 3

Table of Contents

Director's Report.....	2
Special Needs Annex.....	3
Com Conference.....	5
EQ Updates.....	6
County Commissioners...	8
Good News Stories.....	9
Security Exercise.....	11
Homeland Security	12

Mitigation Newsletter

MERC Newsletter

Director's Report

We have experienced an unusually busy spring tornado season. This has evolved into two separate presidential disaster declarations. One declaration was for 41 counties impacted by March 11-13, 2006



tornadoes. Missouri also received a presidential disaster declaration for March 30-April 3 tornadoes. One county received a declaration for Individual Assistance and

three for Public Assistance. FEMA/SEMA Joint Damage Assessments have been conducted so more counties may be added to the declaration.

Pemiscot County requested building inspectors from the SAVE Coalition. These volunteer inspectors inspected over 950 buildings in Caruthersville, approximately 100 in Braggadocio and Deering, and almost 50 in Dunklin County.

Throughout the entire severe weather response, I can not say enough thank yous to all the dedicated local responders, the outstanding volunteer organizations, the wonderful EMDS who volunteered to help their peers, the professionalism of the SAVE Coalition inspectors, and of course, our hardworking state agency responders to make saving lives their number 1 priority this March and April.

The draft catastrophic response plan was delivered to DPS Director Mark James on March 31. It will be a living document and open to comments from both State Agencies and local jurisdictions.

SEMA will be undergoing an accreditation process the last week

of April.

It gave me great pleasure to see so many emergency management directors, elected officials, volunteers

and state agency responders at the recent MEPA/SEMA Spring Conference.

Special Needs Populations Emergency Planning Annex

The images arising from the Hurricane Katrina / Rita disaster operations that involved special needs populations were at times horrific. The March 2003 Missouri tornadoes also impacted many special needs populations across the state. The Missouri Disaster Recovery Partnership has for several years recognized the importance of emergency planning for special needs populations.

The Partnership created a Special Needs Population Taskforce that has successfully taken the first steps in establishing significant planning for special needs populations in disasters.

SEMA, the Department of Health and Senior Services, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, and many public and private partner agencies worked on the Special Needs Annex to the State Operations Plan. In addition to the annex, the group also wrote a summary of state level Standard Operating Guides, and a local special needs population planning template. Local jurisdictions

will be able to use the planning framework outlined on the Special Needs Populations Planning Toolkit CDs.

Reynolds Named CUSEC Sec/Treas

Ron M Reynolds, Missouri State Emergency Management Director (SEMA), was elected Secretary/Treasurer for the Central United States Earthquake Consortium (CUSEC) at the winter meeting in Gatlinburg, TN.

Illinois Emergency Management Director, William C Burke, was named Chairman. Tennessee Emergency Management Director, Jim Bassham, was named Vice Chairman.

CUSEC membership is formed by eight core and 13 associate Central States with an earthquake threat. The eight core states are Arkansas, Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.



AMERICORPS at the Capitol – Three members of the AmeriCorps were introduced to members of the Missouri Senate. AmeriCorps volunteers helped with tarping, debris removal, set up multi-agency resource centers, training spontaneous volunteers and fielded over 300 Tornado Donations Calls for assistance, to donate items and volunteer. The telephone team of Abby Heinz, Cara Skon, Raiboe Sims-Jones met with State Senator Dan Clemens of Southwest Missouri.

Continued from page 1

waivers, authorizing all state agencies with certified peace officers to work security in Pemiscot County, and a granting waivers to trucks shipping emergency supplies to damaged communities.

SAVE Coalition Activated for Southeast Missouri Tornado Response

At the request of Pemiscot County, SEMA activated 10 SAVE Coalition (Structural Assessment Visual Evaluation) inspectors. Over three days, the volunteer structural engineers, architects and building professionals conducted tornado-damaged building inspections in Caruthersville and Pemiscot County. The teams inspected 950 structures in Braggadocio, Deering, and Caruthersville in Pemiscot County, and Kennett (Dunklin County).

Volunteer Organization and Faith-based Relief Actions

- The American Red Cross helped local officials assess initial local damages, so the information can be sent to SEMA rapidly.
- Vouchers for families: both the Red Cross and the Salvation Army have been issuing vouchers to families in Pemiscot County for basic needs such as clothing.
- Sheltering operations: The Red Cross is currently managing shelters in Pemiscot County. They have managed shelters or given housing vouchers to residents after the earlier March storms.
- Mass Feeding Operations: The Southern Baptists sent a mobile feeding unit to Pemiscot County. The American Red Cross and the Salvation Army have both fixed feeding site in Caruthersville and mobile canteens in the County to get food to citizens. These stations are serving over 3000 noon and evening meals daily since April 4. The canteens have been providing three meals a day to rural areas.
- Tornado Assistance Hotline – Pictured: AmeriCorps managing Missouri's Tornado Assistance Hotline. They have received over 300 calls requesting help from private citizens who need help with debris, tarping roofs, and making minor repairs. AmeriCorps has matched businesses and citizens wishing to donate items and volunteers to citizens who need help.
- AmeriCorps has also been instrumental in training spontaneous volunteers who come to a local community and want to help.
- Debris Removal: State and Federal resource CAN NOT go on private property. Several volunteer organizations have been involved in clearing debris from private property especially for the elderly and special needs populations. AmeriCorps, Southern Baptists and the 7th Day Adventist managed chain saw and debris operations in Northeast Missouri, Perryville, Ste. Genevieve, and Southwest Missouri following the March 11-13 storms.
- Debris Removal in Pemiscot County – AmeriCorps, the Latter Day Saints, United Methodist Disaster Services, and the Southern Baptists are managing chain saw and heavy equipment debris operations in Pemiscot County.
- In Nixa, the Seventh Day Adventists managed a tornado donations center making sure the donated items arrived to assist volunteers with tasking.
- Many Emergency Management Directors have activated local Multi-Agency Resource Centers and Long Term Recovery Committees to help their local citizens.
- Many local Fire Departments and law enforcement agencies responded with mutual aid to impacted communities.



41 Counties Approved for March 11-13 Federal Disaster Assistance

Over the weekend of March 11-13, 2006, a series of destructive tornadoes swept across Missouri. Eleven people died from the storms and 120 were injured statewide. Statewide 399 structures were destroyed and 2,837 structures were damaged. Damage Assessment Teams estimated over \$7.6 Million in Public Assistance damages.

Blunt signed three executive orders freeing state agency resource to help local governments, activating the

Missouri National Guard, and directing Department of Natural Resources to grant debris waivers from the March 11-13 tornadoes.

On March 13, he submitted an expedited request for Major Disaster Assistance Declaration to the federal government. On March 16, President Bush approved 9 Missouri counties for Individual Assistance and seven counties for Public Assistance. Within a matter of days, the Governor requested additional counties be added to the declaration. Governor Blunt successfully requested additional counties to be included to both the Individual Assistance and the Public Assistance Disaster Declarations.

The following 14 counties were approved for Individual Assistance only: Cass, Cooper, Crawford, Johnson, Lawrence, Lincoln, Mississippi, New Madrid, Newton, Phelps, Scott, Ste. Genevieve, Taney, and Vernon.

Jefferson County was approved for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance for emergency protective measures and debris removal.

The following 22 counties were approved for Individual Assistance and all categories of Public Assistance: Bates, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Cedar, Christian, Greene, Henry, Hickory, Howard, Iron, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Perry, Pettis, Putnam, Randolph, Saline, St Clair, Webster and Wright.

Bollinger, Daviess, Ray and Washington Counties were approved for all categories of Public Assistance.



State Agencies Tornadoes Response

- Pemiscot County asked for Security and Law Enforcement/Mutual Aid. The following agencies with peace officers responded: 88 Missouri State Highway Patrol officers and two helicopters; 10 Missouri Water Patrol Officers, 10 Missouri Department of Conservation Officers, 10 Missouri Department of Natural Resources Park Rangers, and 51 Missouri National Guardsmen.
- Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services sent teams to: inspect shelters and feeding stations, evaluate food services facilities, evaluation impacted lodging facilities, issue food and drinking water guidance, manage the damaged Pemiscot County Public Health office and provide tetanus shots to citizens and volunteers in Pemiscot County.

- Department of Natural Resources working on: public drinking water restoration, restoration of wastewater services, waiver an open burn ban lifted for disaster related debris management, working on household hazardous waste, and response teams worked with locals on a propane pipeline break.

- Missouri Department of Social Services coordinated water, bulk food distribution and mass care (sheltering operations). They worked with Second Harvest and Food Banks for food and water shipments.

- The Department of Agriculture is working with farmers and agricultural producers, and coordinating with the United States Department of Agriculture.

- Missouri Department of Mental Health is working with crisis counseling providers.

- Missouri Department of Insurance is handling private citizens insurance complaints.

- Missouri Department of Transportation helped clear state roads.

- Missouri Department of Conservation helped clear county roads and provided helicopters for state and local officials damage assessments.

- Missouri Department of Revenue is providing tax assistance for the storm victims.

- Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education is providing technical assistance to Pemiscot County regarding the damaged public schools.

- Missouri Departments within Public Safety - Highway Patrol, Water Patrol, Fire Safety and SEMA - worked on mutual aid, security and response. SEMA will continue to work on recovery and mitigation issues.





250 Attend Crisis Communications Conference

Over 250 communications experts attended the Crisis Communications Conference in February. A continuing education class was also offered to telecommunicators/dispatchers.

The keynote speakers Lisa Dodson of Texas and Jack Vernado of Louisiana discussed Hurricane Katrina Communications Challenges. Other conference speakers were: Richard Stump and John Myers on Auxiliary Communications Service; Jim Biggerstaff on Interoperability Updates; Jim Kramper, Mike Hudson and Steve Runnels on the 2 A.M. Evansville Tornado; R. D. Porter and Bill Pippins on 911/TERT/911 Addressing; and Roger Volk, George Schindler and Don Moore on MEPN- Six Meter Packet.



WHO Resource Guide For Pandemic

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently published a resource book on Bird Flu Advice for Journalists to demystify the science behind avian influenza and other flu outbreaks.

The handbook explains flu basics, such as: the difference between bird flu and the feared pandemic influenza, the history of past flu pandemics, information on drug and vaccine treatments, the phases of a pandemic; and how a community can prepare for one.

It is available at http://www.newssafety.com/stories/insi/Handbook_influenza_pandemic_dec05.pdf

FY 03-04 SEMA Training Schedule

Date	Title	Location
4/24-25/06	Law Enforcement Prevention/Terrorism	St. Charles
4/25-27/06	Community Emergency Response Team T-t-T	Springfield
4/25-27/06	Effective Communications (PDS, POST)	Jefferson City
5/2-4/06	Homeland Security for Local Gov's (APDS)	Springfield
5/16-18/06	Preparedness & Response to Ag Terrorism	Springfield
5/16-17/06	Leadership & Influence (PDS, POST)	Jefferson City
5/18/06	Decision Making & Problem Solving (PDS, POST)	Jefferson City
5/23-24/06	Principles of Emergency Mgt (PDS, POST)	West Plains
6/8-9/06	Multi-hazard Planning for Schools (APDS)	Springfield
6/14-15/06	Developing & Managing Volunteers (PDS, POST)	Moberly
6/20-22/06	Community Emergency Response Teams T-t-T	Columbia
6/20-21/06	Special Events Contingency Planning (POST)	St. Louis City
6/21-22/06	Multi-Hazard Safety for Schools (APDS)	St. Louis
County		
6/28-29/06	Warning Communications (APDS)	Springfield
7/18-20/06	Emergency Planning Course (APDS)	Jefferson City
8/1-3/06	EOC Management & Ops (APDS, POST)	Jefferson City
8/9/06	WMD Crime Scene Mgt for Emergency	St. Louis City
8/9-10/06	Mitigation Planning for Local Gov't	Jefferson City
8/16-17/06	Recovery from Disaster Local Gov't (APDS)	St. Charles
8/22-24/06	Homeland Security for Local Gov't (APDS)	Sikeston
8/22-24/06	Basic Public Information Officer (APDS)	Springfield
9/13-14/06	Resource Management (APDS)	Branson

SEMA Earthquake Program Active on Many Fronts

By Steve Besemer, Earthquake Program Manger

The last few months have certainly been busy ones for the Earthquake Program at SEMA.

In light of concerns over the response to the Gulf Coast following Hurricane Katrina, Governor Matt Blunt directed Missouri state agencies to review and update their plans for dealing with a catastrophic event in this state, such as a series of earthquakes similar to the devastating ones which occurred in the New Madrid Seismic Zone in 1811-12. This past November, representatives from various state agencies and organizations came together to begin working on the anticipated coordinated response to this catastrophic event.

This group identified several key issues, which it felt needed to be addressed and updated through a separate annex in the state's Emergency Operations Plan. This State Catastrophic Plan Working Group has continued to meet on a regular basis (although the March 24th was postponed due to the severe storms which swept through the state), and it recently formed committees to work on the specific issues raised by the Working Group.

The first draft of this new annex was submitted to Department of Public Safety Director Mark James by March 31st. This Catastrophic Event annex should help ensure that Missourians affected by a devastating earthquake will receive an effective and well-coordinated response from their state government.

On another front, the Missouri Seismic Safety Commission has already held three meetings during 2006, with another tentatively scheduled for the month of May.

Governor Blunt has made several appointments to this advisory board in recent months, bringing the Commission up to 16 members (the only remaining opening at this time is for the Architecture seat).

Recent gubernatorial appointments to the MSSC include: Daniel Abbott, St. Louis (Mechanical Engineering representative), Kenneth Berry, Chesterfield (Soils Engineering), Jeffery Garnatz, Columbia (Insurance), Charles "Drew" Juden, Sikeston (Local Government), Donald Landon, Springfield (American Red Cross), and Jonathan "David" Rogers, Rolla (Geology). Two members of the Missouri Legislature have joined the Commission in recent months: Senator Rob Mayer and Representative Billy Pat Wright, both of Dexter.



At their March meeting, Commissioners formed committees to begin working on parts of their 1997 Strategic Plan, which they hope to revise over the next few months. The Commission hopes to play a more active role in ensuring that Missourians are aware of the earthquake threat around them, as well as know about the best ways to be prepared in the event of a significant earthquake event.



Officers for the Mo. Seismic Safety Commission are Chairman Susan Green, Jefferson City (Emergency Management Representative), Vice-Chairman Michael Marx, St. Louis (Public Utilities), and Mark Hasheider, Cape Girardeau (Fire Protection).

The Seismic Safety Commission was also again involved in this year's Earthquake Awareness Week activities, which was observed February 3rd through the 8th. This week provides us the opportunity to promote earthquake awareness through a variety of programs and events open to business leaders and the general public. These events were very successful this year, and we are looking to continue those results next year, along with the possibility of new events, participants and locations.

There seems to be more of an interest by the general public in recent months to get more information about earthquakes. SEMA has been a participant in public or "town hall" meetings about earthquakes over the past few months in Caruthersville, Sikeston and Rolla and also had a booth at the Det. 3, 735th Force Provider Army National Guard Unit in Cape Girardeau's "Operation Homeland Rescue".

We also field requests for earthquake publications from people in and outside of Missouri. Many of

these publications are available for downloading from our website. I'm in the process of reviewing other publications to make sure we have the best, and most current, information to distribute about earthquakes.

One other front that SEMA is involved in is the St. Louis Earthquake Hazards Mapping Project. This 12-member committee includes representatives from the U.S. Geological Survey, St. Louis University, University of Missouri-Rolla, and the Department of Natural Resources Division of Geology & Land Survey. A primary goal of this project is to come up with a detailed map of earthquake hazards in the St. Louis region.

I've only been in this position for a few months but have enjoyed the opportunity to meet a lot of great people around the state who share my interest in the earthquake program. This program is also benefiting from the continued support from this agency, including Director Ron Reynolds, Deputy Director Duane Nichols, Operations Branch Chief Steve Moody, former Earthquake Program Managers Ed Gray, Randy Scrivner and Gayla Weber, and Public Information Officer Susie Stonner.

For more information about SEMA's Earthquake Program, contact me at (573) 526-9232 or at steve.besemer@sema.dps.mo.gov.

2006 Earthquake Awareness Activities



Above: Speakers at the Earthquake Means Business Seminar. Left: SEMA's Steve Besemer and DNR Geologist Jim Palmer man Earthquake exhibit in Cape Girardeau. Below: MSSC Commissioner Drew Juden of Sikeston and Mark Hasheider of Cape. Bottom USGS exhibit at the St. Louis Science demonstrates liquafaction at the St. Louis Science Center during Earthquake Awareness Week 06 activities.



Sikeston Meeting discussed planning with local EMDs and responders. Pictured are MSSC Commission & State Rep Billy Pat Wright, Jack Lankenau and Charlotte Craig.



333 County Commissioners Visit SEMA



In February, the Missouri Association of Counties brought all 330 County Commissioners to SEMA to see the State Emergency Operation Center, learn about disaster response, and homeland security grants. When Commissioners called in recent tornado damage assessments, they had a face to put with the voice.

At A Glance

New Directors

Jenger Bell EMD Reynolds County;
Lynn Hollandworth EMD City of Republic (Greene County), **George Albert/Jeff Hardy** EMDs City of St. Joseph (Buchanan County), **April A. Tarrant** EMD Ray County, **Ronald Chapman**, EMD City of Eldon (Miller County), **Bryan Kunze & Bill John** EMDs Howard County, **Harry Gurin** EMD City of Peculiar (Cass County), and **Ryan Nichols** EMD Greene County/Springfield.

Congratulations

Lawrence McKeough, Bioterrorism Emergency Response Planner City of Joplin Health Department, for completing the APDS certification program.

Rod Zerr, Director, St. Charles County Emergency Management, for completing the APDS certification program.

Daniel J. Abbott, St. Louis, vice president of Corrigan Company Mechanical Contractors was appointed to the MSSC to fill the mechanical engineering position.

Dr. J. David Rogers of the University of Missouri – Rolla was appointed to the MSSC to fill the geo-science position.

Kenneth Barry, Chesterfield, of URS Engineering was appointed to the Missouri Seismic Safety Commission to fill the soils engineering position.

Kermit Hargis Polk County/Bolivar Emergency Management Director moved to new offices located at 210 S. Main Street, Bolivar (new mailing address is P. O. Box 9, Bolivar, MO 65613)

Mary Burton of Cape Girardeau is the new director of the Southeast Missouri Hospital Foundation. For the past 15-years, Mary served as the Director of the Cape Girardeau American Red Cross Chapter working closing with SEMO Emergency Managers.

Scott Samuels (formerly with SEMA's Floodplain Management Section) and his wife are proud parents of a baby daughter.

Representative Billy Pat Wright was appointed to the Seismic Safety Commission. He represents the 159th District covering Cape Girardeau, Stoddard and Wayne counties in Southeast Missouri. He lives in Dexter.

David J. Jones of St Joseph is a former mayor of St Joseph and a process leader for Support Services at Heartland Health was appointed to the Advisory Committee for

James D. Corwin, Chief of the Kansas City Police Department, was appointed to the Missouri Emergency Response Commission.

StormReady Communities

Greene County/City of Springfield received their **StormReady** designation in January 2006

Polk County received their **Storm Ready** designation in January 2006

Atchison County received their **StormReady** designation in January 2006

Park University, Parkville received their **StormReady** designation in February 2006.

Retirements

Rick Williams EMD for the City of Republic retired in December 2005.

Tim Diemler EMD for Callaway County retired March 1, 2006.

Joye McElwee EMD for Greene County/City of Springfield will retire April 1, 2006.

Condolences

To Ina McCaine-Obenland of St. Charles Emergency Management Agency on the death of her husband, who died over New Year's weekend.

To the family of Henry Cooper former EMD for City of Windsor who died over New Year's weekend.

Good News Stories....



CERT ALLIANCE: Chief Rick Ennis (Cape Fire), Melba Board (Parkview School), Marcia Ritter (Cape City Council), Marilyn Lowe's (St. Paul Lutheran School), Debra Tracy (Cape City Council), Dr. David Scala (Cape Schools), Vince Powell (Cape Schools), Mayor Jay Knudtson, Tammy Nenninger (Immaculate Conception School), and Doug Leslie (Cape City Manager)

Cape Girardeau Presents CERT Packs to Local Schools

During Earthquake Awareness Week, on February 6th, the Cape Girardeau's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Alliance began formally presenting CERT packs to area teachers.

As part of disaster preparedness planning, 426 teachers, staff members, and administrators in local schools have been trained in the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Program since 2003. Some schools have been able to secure funds to purchase CERT packs for their trained teachers, but many others have not. CERT packs contain items that would be needed in the event of a disaster such as a forever flashlight (never needs batteries), a medical kit, an 8x10 tarp, a 4-in-1 tool, an emergency blanket, duct tape, goggles, latex gloves, etc.

Through a Homeland Security grant from SEMA, the Cape Girardeau Fire Department and the CERT Alliance have purchased 135 CERT packs. The packs were distributed to: Cape Girardeau School District, 60 packs; Jackson School District, 60 packs; Immaculate

Conception School, 5 packs; Parkview State School, 5 packs; and St. Paul's Lutheran School, 5 packs.



SPRINGFIELD/GREENE COUNTY STORM READY ceremony was held in January. Pictured from left are: Joye McElwee, Springfield/Greene County EMD; David Coonrod, Greene County Presiding Commissioner; Tom Carlson, Mayor of Springfield; Ron Reynolds, SEMA Director; and Steve Runnels, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service

Rock Community FPD Citizen Corps/CERT Launch Fire Corps & Teen CERT Program

By Steve Orr, EMT-P, Citizen
Corps/CERT Program

Volunteers from the Rock

Community FDP Citizen Corps/CERT program helped launch Fire Corps at the 25th Annual Winter Fire School at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Westmont (IL) Deputy Chief David Weiss spoke about Fire Corps. The group talked with Missouri firefighters, departments with Citizen Corps Councils or CERT training programs, and others interested in the Fire Corps concept.

Rock Community Citizen Corps/CERT piloted a TEEN CERT program in February with the administration of Seckman High School in the Fox C-6 School District, Imperial (Jefferson County). Twelve high school students participated in all eight sessions of the "Teen CERT" training, culminating with the hands-on disaster practical exercise. The Seckman administration hopes to continue the TEEN CERT next school year.



POLK COUNTY STORMREADY: About 25 people from county and city governments, volunteer agencies, fire and law enforcement agencies attended the Polk County StormReady Ceremony in January. Pictured are: Steve Runnels, NWS; Stuart Hosiner, Commissioner; Kermit Hargis, EMD; Billy Dryer, Commissioner; Roy Harms, Presiding Commissioner; and Steve Moody, SEMA Operations Chief.

Christian County Citizen Corps Responds to the Mar. 12 Storms

**By Phil Amtower, Director,
Christian County Emergency Management**

I AM PROUD!!!!!!! I am not the smartest person in the world; I have just surrounded myself with knowledgeable people who are my Christian County Citizens Corps/CERT Team.

Immediately after the tornadoes hit Christian County, the CERT team performed actual search and rescue missions with Clever and Nixa Fire Departments. The CERT teams helped in the EOC, conducted first aid, worked at the command posts, trained emergent victims, assisted with damage assessment, and conducted preliminary needs assessment for the Volunteer Resource Center.

Additionally, the team established team leaders to train and direct emergent volunteers. They trained just over 300 emergent volunteers Wed, Thurs, and Friday (March 15-17) and over 500 emergent volunteers on Saturday (March 18).

While I moved recovery operations to Nixa, the team continued to manage the County Emergency Operations Center - answering phones, fielding questions, and coordinating disaster operations with me in the field. Without them, I could NOT have done this!!!

In Nixa, we established a local Multi-Agency Resource Center with local volunteers and the long-term recovery committee. The service center featured 25 phone lines, with a 5 line roll over main number for incoming calls, and high speed wireless network with high speed internet.

After the declaration, FEMA co-located a Disaster Recovery Center with the Multi-Agency Service Center in Nixa. Citizens and Volunteers going to the Center could receive information on volunteering, Red Cross assistance, USDA, SBA, local food pantry, and crisis counseling.

Christian County conducted all recovery operations from the Service Center. As the Incident Commander, I worked with an operations person, PIO staff of three, and logistics person. They managed three field area commands for volunteer helping citizens recover after the tornadoes. To stay in touch with the field efforts we used Nextel direct connect phones.

Compassion Alliance ran the logistics operations and managed donated goods. Missouri citizens and businesses donated more than eight tractor-trailer of donations to Christian County. Those donations ranged from food to building supplies. Compassion Alliance found and managed a large warehouse to store the donated items, and found trucks to move items designated sites for citizens. When an area command needed anything, logistics was called and supplies were usually shipped in less than an hour.

Columbia to Replace 21 Storm Warning Sirens

From the Columbia Tribune

The City of Columbia will replace or relocate 21 storm warning sirens. City officials estimated the cost will be \$310,000. Jim McNabb noted that some of the sirens were more than 40 years old. Last November, Columbia voters approved quarter-cent sales tax for three years to secure \$15 million. In addition to upgrading the sirens, the city will fund

a new police training facility and build two new fire stations.

Miller County Sets Volunteer Open House April 29, 2006

Miller County EMD and Citizens Corp Coordinator Barlow Biggers will have an Open House in Tuscumbia to introduce volunteering opportunities to Miller County citizens on April 29. The Open House will feature volunteers from Miller County's Citizen Corps, CERT, LEPC and Medical Reserve Corps. The Open House will be at the former Health Department, 134 2nd Street, Tuscumbia.

MU Extension, 4-H Join for GIS Mapping Project

The University of Missouri Extension is teaming up with 4-H groups for service learning project to map emergency shelters using Geographic Positioning Systems (GPS), Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and Remote Sensing. The service project is a comprehensive community shelter-mapping project aimed at helping emergency managers and volunteer organizations, such as the Red Cross, who run sheltering operations after a disaster.

The students will collect the following emergency shelter information: location, capacity, accessibility, parking, utilizes, kitchen facilities and grounds. The students will learn how to use create maps based on the information and they will share the information they gathered with their communities.

Looking Glass KC Regional Avian Flu Exercise

The Mid-America Regional Council sponsored a regional tabletop exercise for the H5N1 flu. Cass, Clay,

Jackson and Platte Counties, Kansas City, Independence, Blue Springs, Raymore and Belton participated in the tabletop.

While primarily a public health exercise, emergency management and law enforcement had major roles in the exercise. Briefly, the H5Ni flu is introduced into KC via an Asian flight into KCI. The flu quickly spreads across the metro region and into the country. The scenario reflected a rapidly growing disaster, which necessitated state and federal agency actions.

Changes at SEMA

Promotions

Randy Scrivner has been promoted to Floodplain and Mitigation Branch Chief. He was the State Hazard Mitigation Officer.

Tom Mohr has been promoted to the Branch Chief of the Homeland Security Branch. Tom was the Homeland Security program manager in Operations. The Homeland Security Branch was formed January 30, 2006.

Tammy Sweezer has been promoted to Administrative Office Support Assistant in Operations – Control Room. She worked with the Radiological Emergency Program (REP in Operations).

John Hummel has accepted the position of Unclassified Special Assistant in the Fiscal Section effective March 1st. He previously worked as a Planner/Area Coordinator in the Planning & Disaster Recovery Branch.

New Employees

Jim Pasley (formerly of Missouri Department of Transportation) and **Alan Garison** (retired Mo National Guard Lt. Colonel) accepted positions as Unclassified Special Assistant in the Operations Section in Training & Exercise.

Resignation

Bettie Wingate, former office assistant in Operations for the control room, resigned to accept a position with Labor and Industrial Relations.

Employment Milestones

Celebrating 10 years with SEMA are **Pam Huhmann** (Floodplain & Mitigation), **Diana Terrell** (Planning & Disaster Response), and **Dante Gliniecki** (Volunteer Coordinator).

Congratulations

Pam Huhmann's husband returned from an Afghanistan deployment with the Missouri National Guard.

Terry Toler, SEMA Area "G" Coordinator, has a new grandchild.

Helen Stewart, Computer Information Specialist, recently adopted a one-year-old son.

Pilot Security Exercise Conducted with Callaway Nuclear Power Plant



The US Department of Homeland Security and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission evaluated a pilot security exercise for Nuclear Power Plants. The exercise featured Missouri's State Agencies and the Callaway Nuclear Power Plant. Above Joint Information Center participants: Mindy McDaniel of FEMA Region VII, Sheila Huddleston, Roger Connell (Press Conference Moderators), Chuck May, Stephen Cheavin (spokesmen), and Steve Besemer (Public Information). Left: features a press conference with participants from the FBI, Callaway Plant and SEMA. Below Left: Emergency Planners: Stan Crawford of Callaway Plant, Ed Gray of SEMA, and M. Vargas of the NRC watch the players as the exercise unfolds.



Homeland Security Updates...

Blunt Makes Homeland Security Advisory Council Permanent

Gov. Matt Blunt signed Executive Order 06-09 to establish the Homeland Security Advisory Council as a continuing board and update the structure of Homeland Security within the Department of Public Safety.

“Working to protect Missourians’ safety and security is an ongoing and significant obligation of state government. We must continue to be proactive and innovative as we prepare to plan for and respond to the effects of both natural and man-made disasters,” Blunt said. “This order makes the advisory council permanent, furthers their mission, and clarifies the command structure relating to homeland security.”

Blunt formed the Homeland Security Council last July to ensure proper homeland security plans are in place at both the local and state level and to examine how homeland security grant funds can best be coordinated and expedited.

Missouri Director of Public Safety Mark James will serve as chair for the council. The council is required to produce an annual report due December 31 of each year highlighting the year’s accomplishments and summarizing the homeland security grant funding activities. The order also tasks the Homeland Security Council to continue to create, develop and provide oversight to specific homeland security working groups and provide direction to regional homeland security oversight committees to establish strategies and priorities for homeland security grant funding and other local and regional initiatives.

The order formalizes the state’s Homeland Security Structure, identifying the director of the Department of Public Safety as the Homeland Security Advisor to the Governor. It further, establishes the Office of Homeland Security in the Department of Public Safety and instructs the director to appoint a Homeland Security Coordinator to interact with and promote unity between federal, state and local agencies in implementing homeland security initiatives. In November of last year, James appointed Paul Fennwald as the Homeland Security Coordinator



INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS – SEMA's Ricky Presberry facilitated the Peer Review Committee. Pictured standing Pressberry, Matt Maij (Mid-America Regional Council), Scott Wahlage (St. Louis County Police Department). Seated Mike Daniels (Warren County Emergency Management Director), Roger Strobe (Missouri State Highway Patrol), and Jim Lencioni (Independence Police Department).

Dopp Named HRST POC

Bob Dopp, Executive Director of the Missouri Emergency Response Commission (MERC), will serve as a single Point of Contact (POC) for SEMA with the Homeland Security Response Teams (HRST). He has an extensive background with hazardous materials, incident response, fire service and law enforcement in Missouri. Dopp will work with Paul Fennwald, Missouri’s Homeland Security Coordinator, and the State Fire Marshal’s office on equipment purchases, training and exercise coordination for the teams.

NIMS Compliance: Local Emergency Operation Plans

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) Integration Center and the Office of Grants and Training have developed planning guidance that integrates NIMS into the local emergency operations plan (LEOP). This document, “Integrating NIMS into Local/Tribal Emergency Operation Plans and Standard Operating Procedures” is available for your review on line at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) website. The direct link to that document is: www.fema.gov/pdf/nims/eop-sop_local_online.pdf.

The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) Area Coordinators are currently reviewing this document for NIMS compliance and are incorporating all required changes into the “Missouri All-Hazard Emergency Planning Guidance”. During the FY 2006 LEOP reviews, Area Coordinators will be handing out documents that will assist the jurisdictions in bringing their LEOP to NIMS compliance.

12 Homeland Security Response Teams Will Participate In a Full-Scale Terrorism Exercise — Feb 25

Twelve Homeland Security Response Teams (HRSTs) will participate in a full-scale exercise Saturday, Feb 25 at the Lion's Field, Rolla. This exercise will test local and regional teams coordinated response to a terrorism event. The exercise focuses on hazardous materials, decontamination, bombs, interoperable communications, law enforcement, and emergency medical response. The State Emergency Operations Center in Jefferson City will be operational to support the local teams during this exercise.

Participating Homeland Security Response Teams include: Rolla, Lebanon, Camden County, SEMO/Jackson, Cole County, West Plains, Franklin County, St. Charles County, Springfield, St. Louis County, Ozark, and Jefferson County. The Missouri State Highway Patrol will support the exercise by deploying a bomb team.

